

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th September 1899.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>CALCUTTA.</b>			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Anusandhan" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	6th September, 1899.	
2	"Bangabhum" ...	Ditto ...	.....	12th ditto.	
3	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	25,000	9th and 16th ditto.	
4	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	7th September, 1899.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 6,000	8th ditto.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,500	15th ditto.	
7	"Prativasi" ...	Ditto ...	3,600	11th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000		
9	"Samiran" ...	Ditto ..	.....	13th ditto.	
10	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	7th ditto.	
11	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	11th ditto.	
12	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto ...	.....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	8th and 11th to 15th September, 1899.	
2	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	11th, 14th and 15th ditto.	
3	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300		
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	2,000	11th September, 1899.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	11th ditto.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	800	11th ditto.	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	300	7th ditto.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	330	8th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	.....		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangabandhu" ...	Chandernagore ...	.....	9th ditto.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	600	8th ditto.	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	235		
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	510	10th ditto.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	8th ditto.	
6	"Medini Bandhav" ...	Midnapore ...	.....	11th ditto.	
7	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	600		
<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>PRESIDENCY DIVISION.</b>			
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Sevika" ...	Diamond Harbour ...	.....		
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Hitakari" ...	Kushtia ...	.....		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Basirhat Suhrid" ...	Basirhat ...	.....	9th ditto.	
2	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Berhampore, Murshidabad.	500	6th and 13th September, 1899.	
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	8th September, 1899.	



## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra, in the Central Provinces.	500		
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	376		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	About 600		
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	500		
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.			
1	"Manbhum" ...	Purulia ...	.....	12th September 1899.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	300	6th and 13th September 1899.	
2	"Kangal" ...	Cooch Behar ...	300	13th September, 1899.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	750	16th and 31st August, 1899.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	300		
3	"Sikshak Suhrid" ...	Dacca ...	.....		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	400	6th September, 1899.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	1,011	5th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	10th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	...	8th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	500	9th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	11th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	6th ditto.	
2	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	550		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....		
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	375		







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 11th September has the following:—

The Afghan situation.

The situation in Afghanistan seems to be very critical. Russia has sent an envoy to the Amir to obtain his consent to the construction of a Russian railway through Afghanistan. Ismail Khan, the Amir's cousin, now a protégé of Russia, has invaded Afghan-Turkistan. The Amir has, on account of his old age, lost his sense and the confidence of his subjects. The British Government often advised him to be lenient to his subjects, but that produced no effect. If Russia helps Ismail Khan in his attempt to invade Afghanistan, the British Government will have to take up the cause of the Amir. Then there will be a war between Russia and England—a war for fear of which the latter is supplying the Amir with money and arms.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 11th, 1899.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th September has received the following from a Kishorganj correspondent in the Mymensingh district:—

Oppression of women in the Mymensingh district.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

Girish Chandra Pal is a resident of Sekendar-nagar within the jurisdiction of the Badla outpost in the Kishorganj subdivision. A little after nightfall on the 2nd August last, he and his brother were away from home. Jay Chand Nath, Abdul Shaikh, Nabu Napit, Gopi Nath Nath, Shaikh Baburali, and the father of Shaikh Tota forcibly carried away Girish's *enciente* wife, Harasundari, aged sixteen, and committed outrage on her on a boat, and shortly before daybreak left her in a field near her house. Jay Chand Nath and Abdul Shaikh have been committed to the Sessions under sections 366 and 376 of the Penal Code, but the remaining four accused are still at large.

The same paper has received the following from a Jamalpur correspondent in the same district:—

Mohar Mudi, a resident of Jamalpur town, complained at the police-station to the effect that on the evening of the 12th July last Karim Mudi entered his house and put his hand on the person of his sleeping wife, Gendi; that Gendi awoke, and her shrieks brought some neighbours to the place, who apprehended Karim, and made him over to a town chaukidar, and that some neighbours attempted to snatch him away. The Sub-Inspector of Police investigated at a place one mile from the police-station, and reported the case as false in C Form after a long time, requesting that the complainant might be prosecuted under section 211 of the Penal Code. The Police Inspector wrote:—"Investigating officer recommends for the prosecution of complainant under section 211, Indian Penal Code. I will test the investigation."

The complainant, seeing the way in which the police investigation was being carried on and considering the result he might expect from it, submitted a petition to the Sub-Deputy Magistrate. That officer personally investigated the case and sent up the accused for trial before the Deputy Magistrate, who, after a summary trial, convicted the man and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment.

Why did the police take so long a time to submit its report? The result of the trial clearly shows how unreliable police reports are.

Nothing can be more fearful than for such an outrage to take place so near the courts and the police-station. Had it not been for the Sub-Deputy Magistrate's careful investigation, the accused would certainly have escaped scot free. The conduct of the police in this case is simply unpardonable. The Inspector of the Jamalpur Police is an old and able officer, but he takes no notice of the highhandedness of his subordinates, who do not, therefore, fear him.

The District Magistrate should take notice of the conduct of the police in this case.

On the 14th August last, Ramgati Bhar, a resident of Mahiramkul, in the same subdivision, complained before the Subdivisional Officer that on the 12th



of the same month the Sub-Inspector of the Jamalpur thana and a constable, named Abdul, had arrested and brought down his wife with a daughter eight months old in connection with a theft case, and that the woman and the child had not since been found. The Subdivisional Officer asked for a report from the Jamalpur Police. On the 21st August the senior Sub-Inspector of the Jamalpur thana submitted a report, written in vague language, stating that the Sub-Inspector, Ganga Charan Babu, had searched Ramgati Bhar's house, that he did not find Ramgati, but Ramgati's wife came to the station, and so on. The Subdivisional Officer then ordered an investigation to be held without delay by the Inspector. A week has passed, but the Inspector has not yet submitted his report. A search warrant has been issued for the production of the woman and child.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

3. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Balla, in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, complains of the fearful prevalence of dacoity in many places. A dacoity was committed on the boat of Banamali Shaha, of Balla, on the night of the 1st September last. The boat was lying in anchor to take a cargo of jute the following morning, when at dead of night some seven or eight dacoits boarded it, and belaboured the crew with heavy clubs. One of the boatmen was so severely beaten that he had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. The dacoits could not be apprehended, for they had made off when some other boats came to the rescue.

A correspondent from Chaukhanda, Dacca, says that in the month of Sravan last, some river dacoits attacked a boat at Pankaoa, near Kastura hat, to which place it had come to sell paddy, and whence it was going away after having sold its cargo. The dacoits made off with a considerable booty in cash. On information being given to the police, the Sub-Inspector of the Sabha thana took up the investigation.

A few days after the above occurrence, another dacoity was committed on the boats of the Sauria jute-dealers, who had come to purchase jute at the Kaiakhola hat. The dacoits tortured the crew with fire, and made off with an iron safe. Seven men of this gang have been arrested, but there were many others in it.

SANJAY,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

4. The *Sanjay* of the 8th September complains that prostitutes have become a nuisance in the small town of Faridpur. They dress themselves standing on the roadside, and often drive about the town in carriages, singing obscene songs. They should be compelled to remove to some other quarter of the town.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Aug. 16th, 1899.

5. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 16th August has the following complaints against Babu Kumud Nath Mukhopadhyaya, Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur, in the Faridpur district :—

(1) In a case regarding the possession of the *char* Pachkhola, he caused all the residents of the *char*—six men and thirteen women and children—to live thirty-three days away from their homes. In this case the Deputy Magistrate made an order in favour of the zamindar, Babu Parvati Charan Rai, and prohibited all tenants of Maulvi Golam Ahed, of Habiganj, from entering the *char*. It may be mentioned that Babu Parvati Charan has won the Deputy Magistrate's favour by contributing a large donation towards the cost of setting up an image of the goddess *Kali*, a movement of which Babu Kumud Nath is the chief supporter.

(2) In the India General Steam Navigation Company's case against Sanatan Shaha, the Deputy Magistrate committed the accused to the Sessions on extremely weak evidence.

(3) In some cases between Raja Sri Nath Rai and Babu Harendra Lal Rai, the Deputy Magistrate was biased in favour of the former, because his brother serves under the Raja.

(4) The case between Gayjaddi, of Chardatta, and Babu Sib Chandra Basu, brother of Mr. I. C. Basu, of the Comptroller-General's office, who is zamindar of the Bandarkhola pargana, is being sought to be transferred from Kumud Babu's file, because he is not expected to do justice in it.



6. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 6th September says that though Mr. Abdul Juhur, the Officiating Second Munsif of Barisal, has pleased all by his uniform courtesy, his ignorance of Bengali is causing much inconvenience to the pleaders who do not know English. A judicial officer who does not know Bengali is not expected to discharge his duties satisfactorily in the Backergunge district.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
Sept. 6th, 1899.

7. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th September has the following:—

The Nadua tea garden case in Assam.

Bellwood is the manager of the Nadua tea garden in Dibrugarh in Assam. A cooly girl, named Nani, aged fourteen or fifteen, charged him with outraging her modesty. On the evening of the day on which Nani lodged this complaint, Bellwood sent a telegram to the Deputy Commissioner complaining that he had been beaten by some coolies. The Deputy Commissioner did not believe the charge brought against Bellwood to be true, and acquitted him; but in the matter of Bellwood's complaint believed the accused coolies guilty and sentenced them to imprisonment. We have received a letter commenting on these two cases, and read it with astonishment. Is oppression like that which is stated to have been committed possible in Assam? We publish the letter in the hope that Mr. Cotton will enquire into the allegations made in it against the Deputy Commissioner and the District Superintendent of Police. The enquiry should be conducted by a trustworthy officer, and the public should be informed of its result.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

The letter runs as follows:—

We will state here the facts of the two cases, as many of them are not on record, and no local newspaper has ventured to notice the omissions. The rebuke administered to the editor of the *Assam Times* in Mr. Cumming's case has taken away all courage from the Assam press.

Nani, a cooly girl, made a complaint before the Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh to the effect that Mr. Bellwood had made an attempt to commit rape upon her. The same evening the police went from one pleader's house to another in search of Nani's witnesses, because the District Superintendent of Police had ordered that the witnesses whose names had been mentioned in the petition should be placed under arrest; but they failed to find the witnesses that day.

The same evening the Deputy Commissioner received a telegram informing him that Mr. Bellwood had been beaten by some coolies. The next day he went to Nadua accompanied by the District Superintendent of Police, arrested Nani and seven of her witnesses, including a girl, sent them up to Dibrugarh, and left the case for investigation in the hands of the Police Inspector. At Dibrugarh Nani and her witnesses were placed before Mr. Hamilton, Assistant Commissioner, who sent the six male witnesses to *hajut*, because they admitted having beaten Mr. Bellwood, who, they said, had committed rape on Nani. Nani and the girl witness were at first made over to police custody; but when the Assistant Commissioner learnt that they had been arrested by the Deputy Commissioner personally, he sent them, too, to *hajut*. After this, the District Superintendent of Police one day took all of them under handcuffs and an escort of eight armed constables to Nadua and returned the same day.

The trial commenced some days later. Mr. Bellwood said that on the day previous to the occurrence he had been taking his walk alone, when the two girls mentioned above and another girl, named Sukia, came up, asked of him ten rupees, and made an improper proposal to him; that the same evening he spoke about the conduct of the girls to two European gentlemen of a neighbouring garden. The next day, said he, as he was again walking alone in the garden, the two first-named girls approached him and gave a signal, at which six coolies came out of the jungle and commenced to beat him. He believed that there was a conspiracy among the coolies to beat him. The Court, it is needless to say, believed Mr. Bellwood, and sentenced each of the male coolies to four years' imprisonment. Nani and the other girl were released.

Mr. Bellwood had placed himself under the treatment of Dr. Hancock, who, though he did not witness the beating, minutely described in his deposition the order in which the wounds had been inflicted. In the course



of Mr. Bellwood's cross-examination, the pleader of the other party asked him if he had not once before been beaten by coolies for having violated the chastity of a cooly woman and if he had not lost a tooth in consequence of the thrashing. But the Court disallowed the question.

In connection with this case, we ask—

- (1) why did the District Superintendent of Police order Nani's witnesses to be arrested?
- (2) on what evidence did the Deputy Commissioner arrest the two girls and the witnesses?
- (3) if he had collected evidence himself, why did he order the Inspector of Police to make an investigation?
- (4) is it true that the Inspector's views differed from the Deputy Commissioner's? and, if so, why?
- (5) on what evidence were Nani and the other girl detained in *hajut*, and on what evidence were they subsequently released?
- (6) did Dr. Hancock derive by intuition his knowledge of the order in which Mr. Bellwood's wounds were inflicted?
- (7) why was not the girl Sumia Nasifa examined?
- (8) why was the hearsay evidence of Mr. Bellwood's two European witnesses admitted?
- (9) why was not Nani's pleader examined with a view to explaining the discrepancy between the statement in Nani's petition of complaint that only an attempt had been made to outrage her modesty and the statements made by Nani and her witnesses, in the course of their examinations, that actual rape had been committed?

The facts disclosed in the above letter, writes the editor, are simply astonishing. On receipt of Nani's petition, the Deputy Commissioner thought it necessary to arrest the complainant and her witnesses, but not the accused Bellwood! The District Superintendent of Police went to the garden accompanied by the handcuffed coolies and an armed retinue, and returned the same day. All Nani's witnesses were not examined. No questions were allowed bearing on Bellwood's character. Are not these strange things? We have published the above in the hope that Mr. Cotton will see justice done in the case.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

8. The same paper says that Mr. Ross, Assistant Manager of the Mohanpur tea garden, was acquitted at the High Court Sessions, because the jury found that he had acted in self-defence, and was, therefore, not guilty. Mr. Ross, on his part, brought a case against the Mohanpur villagers, charging them with rioting. That case was tried by Captain Herbert, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, who wrote in the course of his judgment:—

"There are good grounds for thinking that complainant himself cannot be believed on two important points. His primary reason for carrying a revolver, he states, was because of wild animals, and his secondary reason was to protect himself; he does not say against whom or what. His first reason is false on the face of it."

He showed that every statement made by Ross was false and unworthy of belief, and he, therefore, acquitted the accused villagers. And yet Ross was the man whom the High Court jury believed to have acted in self-defence and found innocent. One would like to hear what the Chief Commissioner of Assam has to say after reading Captain Herbert's judgment, and whether Ross should not again be committed for trial on the charge of murder. Why are the Anglo-Indian editors silent now?

SANJIVANI.

9. An unsuccessful candidate at the Mukhtarship Examination writes in the same paper to complain of the hardship to which the new rule, precluding all who have passed only the Middle Vernacular or the Middle English Examination from appearing at the Mukhtarship Examination, has subjected all candidates like him who were unsuccessful at the only chance which the last examination gave them. The rule was published in March 1898. Agitation in the press made the authorities relent to a certain extent, and in June of the

Admission to the Mukhtarship Examination.



same year permission was given to those who had failed in the examination of that year to re-appear in the examination of 1899, but in no other examination. In September the concession was so far extended as to include also those who had failed in the examination of 1897. But the latter notification was issued too late to enable unsuccessful candidates to prepare for the examination of 1899. In 1897 out of 1,600 candidates, only 210 had been successful, and in 1898 out of an equal number of candidates, only 250 had passed. This is enough to give one an idea of the difficult nature of the examination.

When the Medical College of Calcutta refused to admit students who had not passed the F.A. Examination, it did not expel those who had entered it under the old rule after having passed only the Entrance Examination. In the same way, all candidates who appeared at the Mukhtarship Examination in any year, previous to the passing of the new rule, should be excluded from its operation. Many such candidates have already to bear the burden of maintaining families, and their only hope of earning a livelihood lies in the passing of the Mukhtarship Examination. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Judges of the Calcutta High Court should take pity on them and revise the rule.

10. The same paper writes as follows:—

A charge of murder lightly disposed of in Assam.

A cooly woman complained at the Madhavpur thana in the Habiganj subdivision of the Sylhet district that Mr. Wood, Manager of the Surma tea garden, had killed her husband. A police officer went to the garden and found that the body of the deceased had been buried. He caused it to be exhumed. In the meantime, Mr. Majid, Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj, received information of the occurrence, and arrived at the Jagadispor dāk bungalow to investigate. He did not send the body to Habiganj for examination, but had it examined by the doctor of the garden, and on his report that there was nothing suspicious about the cooly's death, found Mr. Wood innocent of the charge brought against him. Thus the woman's complaint came to nothing. Mr. Wood, however, charged five coolies with assaulting him, and they were sentenced by Mr. Majid to three months' rigorous imprisonment each.

It was not right for the Subdivisional Officer to dispose of the cooly woman's complaint as lightly as he did. Nor was it right for him to have the dead body examined by the garden's doctor instead of by a medical man in the service of Government. The report the garden's doctor gave may be correct, but the public cannot be blamed if they refuse to put faith in it. Suppose I commit a murder, and a servant of mine is employed to investigate the matter. Will it not be quite natural for the public to disbelieve my servant if he finds me innocent? We ask Mr. Majid why he had the dead body examined by the doctor of the garden? It was not certainly proper for him to dispose of a charge of murder in this manner. We humbly ask Mr. Cotton to make an investigation in this case.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th September has the following:—

The District Magistrate of Dinajpur.

A Dinajpur correspondent writes in another paper that Babu Mathura Nath Rakshit, Police Sub-Inspector of Parbatipur, had lately been to Bhawanipur, a station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, in connection with the investigation of a *badmashi* case. It is alleged that as he was walking on the station platform the station master assaulted him from behind and laid him senseless on the ground. The Sub-Inspector was removed to the Dinajpur hospital, and on regaining consciousness, he complained to the District Magistrate against the station master. The Magistrate at once despatched a police force to arrest the station-master. The station master was arrested and brought before the Magistrate. He complained that he had been severely beaten by the police, and prayed the Magistrate to have his chest medically examined. But his prayer was not heard, and he was thrown into jail. He is still in jail although the Sessions Judge has ordered his release on a bail of Rs. 1,000! The Traffic Superintendent of the Railway has certified that the station master bears a good character and has always proved a diligent and painstaking railway servant.

One does not feel inclined to believe the correspondent. Is it possible that the Magistrate did not pay any heed to the accused's prayer for medical examination? If it is true that the accused has not been released on bail

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.



in spite of the order of the Sessions Judge, then we must say that it will not be possible for people to live in peace under British rule. How will they be able to confide in the justice of the British Courts of law?

(d).—Education.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1896.

12. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th September has the following in its fifth article on the new scheme of vernacular education:—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

Almost everybody is acquainted with the condition of the teachers who serve in the vernacular schools in this country. The pandits of the middle vernacular schools are generally passed students of the normal schools. But their pay and prospects are so deplorably low that no able or intelligent man would seek service in a middle vernacular school or stick to that service if he could help it. Who can remain contented and happy on a pay of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 for life? Even the few clever men who made the mistake of becoming pandits in the vernacular schools find it necessary to do odd jobs to supplement their slender incomes and devote most of their time and attention to such extra work. The condition of the primary school teachers is still more deplorable. The Government grant to a primary school varies from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 4, and the fee collections do not, as a rule, exceed four to five rupees. Every upper primary school has to pay two teachers and every lower primary school one teacher from the income thus derived. These teachers are, as a rule, men possessed of very little knowledge and intelligence. It is only when a man fails to earn a livelihood in any other way, fails even to secure the post of a village patwari, that he sets up a pathsala. There are primary school teachers who do agriculture or other business and devote only their leisure time to pathsala work. Some of them read up to the middle vernacular standard, but the great majority left school even before reaching that stage. It is doubtful whether there is even one pandit in a primary school who is a passed student of a normal school. Government's total expenditure on the 47,000 primary schools in Bengal is only nine lakhs of rupees. Unlike middle vernacular schools, the primary schools receive no contributions from the native public, and their income from school-fees is small. It is therefore idle to expect the teachers in these schools to be men of education or ability.

And yet it is teachers like these who are to give instruction in the subjects and in the way proposed by the Committee. Both subject and method are new to them and beyond their comprehension. The Committee hope to train up teachers by first introducing the teaching of the new subjects in the training schools. We have shown that the passed students of the training schools as a rule serve in the middle vernacular schools, and not in the primary schools, whose income is too small to attract them. If it be said that such being the case it will be found practicable to introduce the new scheme at least in the middle vernacular schools, the reply is that even that will not prove feasible. There are at present eight first class training schools in these provinces. Supposing each such school to pass ten boys on an average every year, the total annual outturn will be only eighty. Now, all of these passed students do not accept teacherships. And of those who do, some become pandits in Entrance schools, some become drawing masters, &c. Taking sixty as the number that may be made available for service in middle vernacular schools, it will require at least thirty years to give only one teacher trained on the new method to each middle vernacular school in Bengal, the number of such schools being taken at two thousand. Even if the training-school term is reduced to one year, it will take at least ten years to accomplish that result. As for the pathsalas, it is simply impossible to give a qualified teacher to each pathsala within a reasonably short time. There are 47,000 primary schools in Bengal. How long will it take to train up as many teachers for the purpose of replacing the existing pandits? The fact is, it will take a very long time and involve considerable expenditure of money to train up teachers in order to give effect to the new scheme. It will be probably necessary to establish a training school in every district, as was done



in the time of Sir George Campbell. Mr. Pedler, however, has been unable to evince the sympathy which marked the educational policy of that ruler, nor has he, like Sir George, proposed any liberal expenditure of money. Is it possible to bring about a revolution in the system of education without increasing educational expenditure by even a pice? What is practicable with the present expenditure is being done; if you want change and improvement, you must spend money and commence action after due preparation. Has any notice been taken of the expenditure incurred on primary education and the efforts made to promote it in Germany, Ireland and other European countries which have been pointed out as models?

It is proposed by the Committee that the Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors of Schools should be made to acquaint themselves with the subjects of study comprised in the new scheme and with the proposed method of instruction. But is it easy to teach all those subjects and drawing and drill, in particular, to such officers and is it possible for those old men to learn them? Supposing that through pressure of necessity they learn them carefully, how many times it may be asked do they come in contact with the boys in the course of a year? If they are to teach the new subjects to teachers and boys on the occasion of their school inspections, how much time will be required to impart such instruction with efficiency? The existing inspecting staff will simply find the task impossible, and the task would not be well done, even if the staff were doubled.

Another method by which the Committee expect to make the new scheme a success is the preparation of guides and manuals for the teachers. We fail to see how subjects which can be taught only practically will be learnt from books, or how the teachers will by reading such books learn drill and drawing and teach on the oral method or the Kindergarten system. Again, not even five per cent. of the primary school teachers will be able to understand these "guides." They will require teachers to expound these books to them. If Government had not been so unwilling to incur additional expenditure, something could have been done to promote the efficiency of the new scheme by requiring the existing pandits to attend, on full pay, training schools for one year and learn the new subjects of study and the new method of teaching. As it is, the proposed interference with the existing system of education is most ill advised.

To make teaching on the Kindergarten system a success will require a considerable outlay of money and a supply of teachers, articles and apparatus, which vernacular schools in this country do not command. To impart instruction on this method with efficiency every lower primary school should have at least three well qualified teachers for its five classes. This system of education can be properly imparted only in boarding-schools, in schools, that is, in which the boys can spend most of their time in the company of their teachers. As for articles and apparatus, how can these be made available in this country where schools, as a rule, possess no local habitations of their own, where schools are held in huts no better than cowsheds, and those huts are lent by their generous owners, and where a teacher's pay is less than a day labourer's wages? The Committee say that an annual expenditure of four annas for every primary school will be sufficient for the purpose of procuring the articles by means of which instruction will have to be imparted to the pupils. Comment on this is unnecessary. The Committee have made a great mistake and shown a lamentable ignorance by proposing teaching on the Kindergarten system for the infant classes of the primary schools, which are supposed to be attended by boys of 5, 6 or 7 years of age. Everybody knows that the lowest age at which a native boy attends the lowest class of a primary school is 8 or 9 years. It would be extremely amusing and unnecessary to require such boys to learn things which mere infants are taught on the Kindergarten method. Would it again be possible for a peasant boy to spend three years of his time in the three lowest classes in such amusements? We are sure the impossible can never be made possible. The mouse can never be made to do the elephant's work. In the existing state of things the Kindergarten system can never be successfully introduced in Bengali primary education, and any violent measures will be attended with disastrous consequences. It certainly does not behove the wise to abandon the known and the certain and pursue the unknown and the uncertain.



BANKURA DARPAN,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

13. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 8th September continues its criticism of the new scheme of vernacular education (*vide* Report on Native Papers for 9th September, paragraph 11 :—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

The scheme will, it is clear, completely relieve the boys of that mental strain to which they are now subjected in consequence of their having to read a multiplicity of text-books, and which proves so injurious to their health.

It will be our greatest misfortune if, living, as we do, under the rule of a practical people like the English, we fail to revive an inclination for work, which is fast disappearing; and it will be for our own welfare to put some check on our insane hankering for light and poetical studies. The new scheme is well calculated to supply such a check. We are not opposed to literary study, nor do we wish to create a dislike for it. Poetry or metrical composition forms the richest part of human literature, because it is the literature of passion and sentiment, and is the effusion of a thoughtful mind. Children, however, cannot appreciate poetry. In a child, indeed, the faculty is not developed, which is concerned with the appreciation of poetry. A child most likes to see, to act, and to think. The best method for educating a child is therefore to develop his capacity for work. Thanks to Lord Curzon, such a method is at last going to be introduced in the primary and middle schools of Bengal. We do not contend that poetry should form no part of a child's study. We hold, on the contrary, that metrical composition forms the pleasantest reading for a child. The learning of moral verses by rote in the infant classes, supplemented by the reading of moral tales in verse in the higher classes, will have a most wholesome effect on the boy's character.

Both our faculty for work and our religious faculty seem to be languishing. That community does not fare well whose members have not been properly educated and trained up from boyhood, and no one will deny that a good many of the evils in our community have their origin in the bad system of education which prevails in our infant schools. Thanks to Lord Curzon's policy and ability, we can now hope that many of those evils will, at last, be removed.

The Committee have proposed to adopt very good methods for the appointment of subjects and the preparation of text-books. The subjects have been well chosen. The hints given for the preparation of literary text-books are also very good. The moral verses prescribed for the infant stage should consist of such *slokas* from the *smritis* (with easy Bengali translations) as inculcate *bhakti* for parents and prescribe children's duty towards them. In the next stage, such *slokas*, together with hymns, glorifying God, should be learnt. In subsequent stages, boys should read moral tales selected from the *Puranas*, and be thereby gradually initiated into a study of the national literature.

A short Bengali grammar for the third and fourth standards, and a Bengali grammar, including lessons on composition and versification for the fifth and sixth standards, are absolutely necessary. We hope the Committee will make this addition to their syllabus.

HITAVADI.  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th September has the following on the new scheme of vernacular education in continuation of what it wrote on the subject in its last issue :—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

The literature primer, which is, under the existing system, read in the lower primary class, deals with objects of everyday use. The principles of Zoology, Botany, and Agriculture are taught in an elementary form in the lower primary class. The upper primary course consists of two literature primers, one prose, and another poetry; a text-book on the history of Bengal; a text-book on Geography, with a special treatment of Bengal; and text-books on Agriculture and Physical Science. The middle vernacular course consists of text-books on Prose, Poetry, History of India, Physical and General Geography, Physical Science, Geometry, &c. In this as well as in the upper primary class a separate text-book on grammar is read. Under the existing system, therefore, a systematic study of literature has not been interfered with.

Sanskrit and Bengali are kindred languages. In fact, Sanskrit is the mother of Bengali. Bengali grammar, therefore, is generally written on the lines of Sanskrit grammar. A study of Bengali grammar is necessary to



enable one to master the Bengali language. The incorrect Bengali which we so frequently come across in these days is no doubt to be attributed to the ignorance of grammar. It is impossible to master the Bengali language without mastering Bengali grammar. The incorrect Bengali, which is written by the educated Bengali youth, proves the correctness of this statement. There can be no two opinions about the necessity of studying grammar for acquiring a correct knowledge of a language.

The existing system has made a liberal provision for acquiring a proficiency in the Bengali language. It has also, by prescribing separate text-books on different subjects, made it possible for a student to acquire a proficiency in those subjects. Under the existing system, separate text-books on History, Geography, Physical Science, &c., are taught. The young learner can, therefore, study each of these subjects in its entirety. It may be desirable to curtail the number of text-books and remove their defects, but it is by no means desirable to revolutionise the existing system.

It cannot be denied that Vidyasagar's *Sitar Banavas* and Akshay Kumar's *Charupath* have paved the way to the improvement of the Bengali language, and facilitated the study of Bengali literature. These two books have, in fact, materially helped school boys in acquiring a knowledge of the Bengali language. Many Bengali writers have since then appeared, who, following in the footsteps of those two great masters, have written and are writing good books. Good text-books on History, Geography, and Physical Science are being and will be written. There is no University in Bengal for the teaching of Bengali. The Calcutta University does not recognise Bengali. There is not also a high-class Bengali-reading public in the country. The works on Bengali literature which are generally produced now-a-days find their readers in the middle and training schools. There can, therefore, be no doubt that it is the middle schools which are at the root of the development of the Bengali language.

Let us now see what Mr. Pedler's Committee has proposed to do for the study of Bengali literature. It has prescribed, for the lower primary class, a science primer, priced at three annas, and consisting of 70 pages, thus distributed:—Drawing 9 pages, Botany 10 pages, Zoology 20 pages, Agriculture 18 pages (or Physical Science 10 pages and Chemistry 8 pages), Hygiene 16 pages, or Domestic Economy 16 pages and Poetry 5 pages. For the upper primary class has been prescribed a science primer of 143 pages, priced at four annas, and another primer of 100 pages, priced at three annas, which is to contain a little of history, a little of geography and a little of morality. There will be no separate text-book on grammar. For the middle vernacular class, besides a science primer, there will be a literature and moral primer, priced at four annas, which is to consist of prose, poetry, grammar and composition. There will also be a History and Geography primer of 100 pages, dealing with History and Geography (General as well as Physical).

It is quite clear from the above that the first and foremost object of the Committee is to impart not a literary, but a scientific education to the students of the vernacular schools. Nay, it seems to be their chief object to keep the Bengali ignorant of the Bengali language. The science primers which are, according to the proposal of the Committee, to be read in the vernacular schools, are to deal with multifarious subjects, such as Physical Science, Chemistry, Hygiene, &c. It is not possible for one person to be acquainted with so many subjects. None but a joint-stock company of authors will be able to write such a book. Even if you succeed in getting a publisher, difficulties will arise in connection with the authorship of such books and the copyright in them. Moreover, there will be no uniformity of style in a book written by a dozen or half a dozen authors. An expert scientist, it should not be forgotten, is not necessarily an expert writer possessing a proficiency in grammar. A science primer written on the lines laid down by the Committee may teach science, but will impart a defective and unsound literary education to the students. Prose, Poetry, Grammar and Composition will be put within the small compass of one text-book. This will strike at the root of literary education. The students will not have a separate text-book on grammar to read, and will consequently fail to distinguish between correct and incorrect Bengali.

The case will be the same as regards History and Geography. History and Geography (General as well as Physical) cannot be systematically treated



within the compass of a small primer. History and Geography cannot be lucidly and intelligently dealt with within such a small compass. All that can be done within such a small compass is to state facts and figures *seriatim*. But History and Geography treated in this way will only cram the memory, but will not develop the intellect. There is, perhaps, no such system of education in vogue in any other civilised country. Even in the Central Provinces, the educational system of which has supplied Mr. Pedler with his model, there are separate text-books on different subjects.

Mr. Pedler's object may be good, but he is not intimately acquainted with Bengal. He does not know how the Bengali language is being developed. Under these circumstances, he ought to have consulted experienced and independent opinion. Even a Director of Sir Alfred's Croft's experience did not venture to revolutionise the existing system of education. He only proposed to lay down a science syllabus for the vernacular schools. He never thought of interfering with the study of language and literature. We advise Mr. Pedler to desist from the hazardous task he has undertaken. He should not imperil his popularity by insisting on his scheme.

The present Lieutenant-Governor is a man of a calm disposition, and he has been placed over an obedient and law-abiding people. It is rare good fortune to rule over such a docile people, and the Lieutenant-Governor should try his best to prevent any wrong being done to them. Let the existing system be reformed, but let it not be destroyed.

Dacca Prakash,  
Sept. 10th, 1899.

15. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 10th September has the following on the new scheme of vernacular education:—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

The vernacular newspapers have kept up a monotonous protest against the new scheme of vernacular education, but we do not think that their protest possesses any value. It is difficult to build, but easy to destroy. It is a difficult thing to formulate a scheme, but it is easy to criticise and find fault with it. We do not say that the new scheme of vernacular education is faultless, but we do say that its critics ought to show whether a less defective scheme could be formulated.

Considering the serious defects in the present system, there can be no two opinions as regards the desirability of changing the existing curriculum of study. The Bengali middle class are nowadays not likely to derive any advantage from vernacular education. The doors of the Government service are closed to those who have received only a vernacular education. The mukhtarship and medical school examinations also are not open to candidates who have not received English education. The proposed alterations in the existing system of vernacular education will not, therefore, do any harm to the children of the middle classes. Nay, it will be a great gain if the so-called Bengali literature, in which foreign and anti-Hindu ideas are expressed and the reading of which is denationalising the native boys, is curtailed. For this reason, if not for anything else, the objection against the proposed scheme on the score of the shortness of its syllabus is unreasonable. The reading of a few fixed Bengali text-books cannot make an eminent Bengali scholar, and the proposed curtailment of the literature course will all the more fail to produce such a scholar. But those who have any taste for literature have ample opportunities outside their course to cultivate their literary taste. There are hundreds of good books and newspapers, the reading of which will increase their stock of literary knowledge much more than a dozen or half a dozen school-books can be expected to do. Who, again, can deny that it is more profitable to read the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* than to read a Bengali translation of *Rasselas* in a school-book?

The proposed change in the existing curriculum will, therefore, do more good than harm to the children of the middle classes. The majority of the people, again, belong to the agricultural and artisan classes, and there can be no doubt that the new scheme will benefit them. The existing system is making their children Babus, and they are learning to look down upon their ancestral pursuits as ignominious. This has done great harm to agriculture and the industries. The children of the agricultural and artisan classes are gradually forsaking their hereditary callings and competing with the children of Brahmans and Kayasthas in the struggle for securing clerical posts. The new



scheme will give the children of the agriculturists a practical training in agriculture, and if they are made to hold the plough at school, they will not feel it an indignity to hold it after school-life. Under the new scheme, they will also learn a few useful principles of agriculture, and these will stand them in good stead in future. Under the existing system, the students receive not a useful, but an injurious education. The new scheme will teach nothing injurious; it will teach something useful. Which of these two systems, then, ought to be preferred?

The children of the upper classes will not, of course, be made to hold the plough at school, but the acquisition of a little knowledge of agriculture and manual art will do them immense good. Those belonging to the upper classes, who cannot acquire a knowledge of English, but have acquired some knowledge of agriculture, may earn a livelihood by taking to agricultural pursuits and getting their lands tilled by paid labourers. Many belonging to the upper classes have cultivable lands. They cannot derive any profit from these, because they know nothing of agriculture and cannot, therefore, efficiently supervise the hired labour employed in cultivating their lands. An experienced raiyat would maintain a family on the produce of five or seven bighas, but a hundred bighas belonging to an upper class native ignorant of agriculture would bring him no profit. We need not say that all upper-class natives are not clerks. About three-fourths of them have to depend upon their lands. To them a knowledge of agriculture is essentially necessary, and it is extremely foolish to object to the proposed alterations in the system of vernacular education.

We are strongly opposed to the policy of teaching the children of the upper and the lower classes in one and the same school. But it is impossible to open separate schools for them. Except in a few towns, it will be impossible to maintain such separate schools. In a village school, you will get three or four boys belonging to the upper, while you will get no less than fifty or sixty belonging to the lower classes. A separate school for lower class boys can be maintained. But how will you maintain a separate school for upper class boys? The Government will not encourage caste distinctions, nor is it in a position to maintain separate schools for high class boys. This being the case, it is useless to propose that two different courses of study should be prescribed—one for the upper and another for the lower class boys. Those who do not like to see their children taught on the same bench with lower class boys may open separate schools on their own account. The Government may or may not help these schools with small monthly grants. But this is not a consideration which affects the new scheme in any way. There may be defects in the new scheme, but these may be rectified after it has been put to a practical test.

16. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 11th September has the following on the new scheme of vernacular education in continuation of what it wrote on the subject in its last issue:—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

Most of the people who are directly concerned with the new scheme of vernacular education are ignorant and inexperienced men. Those among them who have received a little education know nothing about the proposed alterations, and are also not in a position to judge of the merits of the new scheme. The few who are in a position to pass an opinion on the subject have no educational experience, and few among the extremely limited number of people who have such experience have come across the Resolution published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th July. It cannot be said that in such a country three months is sufficient time for the public to study the new scheme and form an opinion on it. The publication of the Resolution only in the *Calcutta Gazette* and only in English is not sufficient for the purpose of its promulgation. Within such a short time the public will not be able to form an accurate idea of the extent of the evil which is sure to be done by the new scheme.

Depending upon our knowledge and experience, we now proceed to suggest the lines upon which a true reform of the existing system of education should be based. When one criticises a new scheme, one ought to show that there is a better scheme available. If there be flaws in the scheme suggested by us, we invite the public to correct these flaws and help the Government in formulating a faultless scheme.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Sept. 11th, 1899.



At the very threshold of educational reform lies the question of ways and means. There can be no reform without increased expenditure. In paragraph 25 of their report the Committee write that under the new scheme the primary schools alone will have to incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 48,113. Of this sum, Rs. 32,000 will have to be supplied by the local authorities and Rs. 16,113 by the local public. According to the calculations of the Committee, a yearly grant of four annas for each primary school will be sufficient for the purpose of providing additional expenditure. This grant is no doubt ridiculously small. To tell the truth, the Committee, while eager to have their scheme introduced at once, have shown carelessness and want of experience in suggesting methods for carrying out their scheme.

Let us now show how the additional expenditure likely to be incurred in educational reform is to be met.

In our opinion all educational expenditure ought to be borne by the public exchequer. The public exchequer has to meet numerous items of expenditure—necessary and unnecessary. It has to meet an expenditure of crores of rupees incurred by the Military Department and also expenditure incurred on account of State interests here and elsewhere. The Indian public exchequer has to pay the highest salaries in the world to public servants, and has also to pay unnecessary compensation allowances to European servants. It is not, therefore, too much to expect that the civilised British Government will pay something out of the public exchequer for the education of its subjects. We need not point out to the Government the difference between having educated subjects and uneducated subjects. We need not also point out that it will be a great gain to the Government to improve the condition of its subjects. We hope, therefore, that the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor will not grudge any reasonable expenditure in order to carry out educational reform. We entreat the Government to give up the idea of carrying out an educational reform without incurring any additional expenditure.

But if the Government is determined to reject the prayer of the public and to carry out its own unreasonable scheme, let it follow either of the two following methods to raise money, for the purpose of meeting additional educational expenditure:—

(A) (i) There are now six grades in the inspecting staff of the Educational department. These are—the Inspecting Pandit, the Sub-Inspector, the Deputy Inspector, the Assistant Inspector, the Inspector, and the Director. Now, if the Director is entrusted with the inspection of colleges, the Inspectors with the inspection of all Entrance schools, and the Inspecting Pandits with the inspection of vernacular schools, the intermediate grades may be safely abolished. To tell the truth, inspection of schools by the intermediate grades of inspecting officers serves no earthly purpose and does no earthly good to the public. The chief object of these officers in inspecting schools seems to be to get their books or their friends' books appointed as text-books. The travelling allowance is also a powerful motive for inspection. Inspection also gives them opportunities of paying visits to friends and relations. Schools easily approachable receive frequent visits, while schools which it is difficult to approach receive very few visits. It should, therefore, be made a standing rule that no inspecting officer should pay a second visit to a school before he has once gone the round of all the schools within his jurisdiction.

(ii) The lower primary examination is of no educational value. The lower primary schools and the lower primary examination may, therefore, be safely abolished. Those who now finish their education in the first class of lower primary schools may henceforth do so in the corresponding class in an upper primary or middle vernacular school.

(iii) The circle schools also may be safely abolished. In the towns where there are circle schools, primary or middle vernacular schools may be started by the residents.

(iv) At present different classes of schools are situated unnecessarily close to one another. The aids to some of these may be discontinued.

(v) When a book is appointed as a text-book, the author may be required to pay something as a contribution to the educational fund. No author, we suppose, will grudge this contribution. If any one does, there will be no want of other text-books.



With the money thus raised, educational reform may be steadily introduced. It is more advisable to do a small amount of work efficiently and well than to attempt a great deal and do it shabbily. If it is really the object of the Government to impart vernacular education to the students on improved lines and not to lay the axe at the root of the Bengali language and literature; let it better follow the more liberal method of raising money. This method is as follows:—

(1) Let an educational tax of half an anna in the rupee be imposed on land like the road and public works cesses.

(2) Let an educational tax of over Rs. 5 be imposed on incomes exceeding Rs. 2,000 a year.

(3) Let a similar tax be imposed on opium, hemp and other intoxicating drugs.

(4) It will not also be unreasonable to impose a similar tax on salt.

The public will not be angry if the Government imposes an educational tax for the purpose of reforming and spreading education in the country. Nay, they will feel grateful to the Government if it takes any step in this direction. Let sound education spread among the masses, and all causes leading to disturbances of the public peace will disappear.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

17. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th September has the following in an article headed "It is a good lesson that we have learnt":—

Resignation of the elected Commissioners.

It is because we were fools that we thought that this country was ours and that for the good of the country one ought to sacrifice one's comfort and happiness. It was thus that for the good of the country, some of us became Municipal Commissioners and others members of District Boards. But it is Government's belief that we love local self-government for the sake of self-interest. Government says that it is English merchants who have made Calcutta the large city it is, as if we have done nothing. Since such is the disregard and neglect with which we are treated, it would be well for us to retire from the field. Not only that, when the charge has been publicly made against us that as Municipal Commissioners we earn money by unfair means, it is impossible for any respectable man to continue a Municipal Commissioner. Educated and respectable people in the mufassal spare themselves no trouble in serving on District Boards and Municipalities, but they find themselves perpetually assailed by the rebukes of the paid officers of Government and pained at heart by the sneers of Anglo-Indian editors. When the officials do not want our assistance, we should not concern ourselves with such matters. It behoves respectable native gentlemen to sever their connection with all Legislative Councils, great and small, Municipalities, District Boards, Local Boards, village unions and panchayats in the country. The country belongs to Englishmen, and let them rule it and do what they like. It is said we scorch them everywhere by our speeches; let us retire and let them become cool and comfortable.

A strong agitation has been made both in India and England against the Calcutta Municipal Bill. But what has been the result? Reason and argument is on our side, but Government is the fountain of power. And power has vanquished reason and argument. No officer of Government, not even the Viceroy or the Lieutenant-Governor, has been able to refute the arguments urged against the Bill by Babu Nalin Bihari Sarkar, Mr. N. N. Ghosh, Babus Narendra Nath Sen and Surendra Nath Banerji and Mr. Apcar. But Government possesses power, and has therefore disregarded all reason and argument. The Commissioners who have resigned have shown that Bengalis are gradually becoming manly, but the matter for regret is that all of them have not yet been able to become such; otherwise every elected as well as nominated Bengali Commissioner would have resigned his Commissionership with scorn. Those who have shown their manliness by resigning their office should have their names proclaimed all over the country.

We hope every respectable man in Calcutta will follow their noble example and maintain the good name of the country. Government desires to make over

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.



the administration of the municipal affairs of Calcutta principally to officials and English merchants. Let Government have its wish. We are a subject-people; let us retire from the field.

BASUMATI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

18. The *Basumati* of the 7th September writes as follows with reference to the resignation of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta :—

The resignation of the Municipal Commissioners.

What has been done has been done. We will not plainly say that the Commissioners have resigned in anger, but there is no doubt that their conduct is approved by the rate-payers. When the Commissioners were called dishonest, corrupt, whimsical and professional political agitators, it was not so much they as the rate-payers who were insulted. The Commissioners are merely the representatives of the rate-payers, and as such, they supervise the municipal administration and the conduct of the municipal employes. If after twenty-three years' energetic and patient service the Commissioners are abused, the burden of the abuse will be placed not on them, but on the rate-payers. After Sir Alexander Mackenzie's inconsistent and reckless speech at Palmer's Bridge, all thoughtful people advised the Commissioners to resign—not by way of challenging or holding out a threat to the Government, but simply with the view of maintaining self-respect and preserving social reputation and dignity. The English have many virtues, but they are unable to enter into the Hindu heart.

There will soon be bye-elections. It will not be advisable for those who have resigned to come forward again for election.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

19. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th September has the following with reference to the resignation of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta :—

The resignation of the Municipal Commissioners.

The Municipal Bill has caused disappointment and damped the energy of the Commissioners. Over and above this, the Government ascribed dishonesty to them, but has declined to say who among them are dishonest and what the nature of their dishonesty is. What else, then, can the Commissioners do, but resign? One is naturally curious to know how many corrupt and dishonest Commissioners are associated with those, who have, for the last quarter of a century, been disinterestedly working for the improvement of the city. The Government may or may not gratify this curiosity, but it ought to have acquainted those, against whom or against some of whom the charge of corruption has been levelled, with every thing in connection with this matter. But this has not been done, and we sincerely thank the Commissioners who have resigned.

Considering the new law which is to soon come into force, to resign or not to resign would mean the same thing to the Municipal Commissioners. It would be worse than useless to sit as mere puppets, mere ornamental figure-heads, incapable of doing anything and practically having no hand in the municipal administration. We cannot, therefore, help praising the sense of self-respect of the Commissioners who have resigned, mortified by the conduct of the Government.

The Calcutta Municipality will now become a farce. Surendranath, Narendra Nath, Nalin Bihari, Kalinath, Nagendra Nath, Bhupendra Nath have left it. We can freely say that their equals will not be found to take their place. We have also reason to think that if the new law is passed, no one would care to offer himself as a candidate for a Municipal Commissionership if there were no chance of being elected to the General Committee and drawing a fee. To tell the truth, those who have resigned have done their duty and those who have not resigned have not done their duty. But have the rate-payers no duty? If they do not elect any Commissioners in the place of those who have resigned, if they call meetings to condemn the Commissioners who have not resigned, they will only give expression to their feeling. But unfortunately the doings of the Government have so terrified the public and have made them so nervous that they have not the courage to act according to their conviction. We do not, therefore, hope that no new Commissioners will come forward to fill the vacancies caused by the resignations. Who can say that there are not, among the Commissioners who have resigned, fickle-minded people devoid of moral courage who may again come forward as candidates for Commissionerships in the ensuing bye-elections?



20. The *Som Prakash* of the 11th September says that the Howrah Municipality is heavily involved in debt, and it is not easy to see how it can get out of it. In the Annual Report the Municipality shows outstandings to the tune of two to two and-a-half lakhs of rupees on account of unrealised bills. Recently a warrant department has been established for the realisation of these bills, and the warrant officers are collecting the arrears, in some cases, from poor men who are not the parties really liable. In many cases the premises, &c., to which the bills relate are no longer in existence. It is in respect of such bills that the greatest oppression is being committed on the poorer rate-payers.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Sept. 11th, 1899.

Before the system of collection through the agency of a contractor was introduced, it was the duty of the collecting sarkar to report to the Collector the fact of any house or land being vacant within his beat, and it was the Collector's business to ascertain, with the help of the assessor's department, the correctness of the report and make the necessary remission in the bill. But the practice is now changed. It is the owner who has now to report the fact of vacancy to the Secretary, and the Secretary has to see to the necessary remission. The practice looks simpler, but is a source of great hardship to owners. The mismanagement of business in the Municipality makes it impossible for an applicant to get his case disposed of in less than eight or ten months, and even when an order has been passed on his application, there is no arrangement for communicating the order to him. Under the circumstances, it is not easy for owners to get remissions for vacant houses and lands.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

21. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 8th September complains that the raiyats in the Chetua and Mohankhali circuit in the Ghatal subdivision of the Midnapore district gave, as required, kabuliyats for lands measuring 10 feet in width at the foot of the embankment and paid rent thereof to the embankment officers. The zamindars, who now lay claim to these lands, sued the raiyats for arrears of rent, and the Court decreed the payment of rent for lands in the possession of the embankment department, and for which they have realised rents from the raiyats. Those raiyats who have not given kabuliyats to the embankment authorities are being unsuccessfully sued by the Government. The raiyats who have given kabuliyats are in a fix and are being made to pay the same rent twice.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

22. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 7th September complains that although the Pabna District Board has entered into an agreement with the India General Steam Navigation Company to pay it Rs. 5,000 in consideration of its keeping up a regular ferry steamer service between Kushtia and Pabna for a period of three years, the Company keeps up no separate service between those two places, but carries passengers between those stations on board the steamers plying between Goalundo and Rajshahi. There would have been no objection to this arrangement if the service had been regular and punctual and due attention had been paid to the convenience of Kushtia-Pabna passengers. On the 9th August last, the correspondent was going to Pabna. On arriving at Kushtia he found no ferry steamer, although, according to the time-table, a steamer ought to have been at Kushtia at 2 P.M. to carry passengers to Pabna. A steamer arrived at Kushtia on the afternoon after the Chittagong mail had come in. On his return journey from Pabna, the correspondent came to Bajitpur on the 15th August, but no steamer touched that place that day and up to 9 or 10 A.M. the next day. The correspondent had, therefore, to go to Kushtia in a boat.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 7th, 1899.

These irregularities cause the greatest inconvenience to passengers. The Bajitpur ghat, where the steamers touch, is situated on a *char* of the Padma, some three or four miles from Pabna. If people who come from Pabna to catch the steamer at this ghat fail to do so, they get no place to live in, because the ghat contains no human habitation, except a number of shops, which are extremely damp.



The manner in which passengers are landed is also extremely reprehensible. No staircase, except that intended for first-class passengers, is lighted at night; and passengers have to land from the steamer by means of a plank which is thrown across the water. When the *khalasis* were crying "land quickly or the plank will be pulled back," a female companion of the correspondent twice fell over into the river. The *khalasis*, nevertheless, did not heed the warning given to them not to take away the plank.

The fare has been increased from four to six annas this year.

MANBHUM,  
Sept. 12th, 1899.

23. The *Manbhumi* of the 12th September says that on the 4th September a dead body found on a railway line. last the dead body of a low class Hindu, whose name and residence are unknown, was found on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line between the stations Damodar and Ramkanali at mile 614. Probably the man was killed by the night train. The Company, who own the line, may be more careful about their profit than about men's lives, but how can the Government be so indifferent to the lives of its subjects as not to compel the Company to put up side fences along the line?

(h)—General.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Sept. 6th, 1899.

24. The *Marshidabad Hitaishi* of the 6th September complains that the post is never received in due time in the villages Mangram and Sitahati in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district. Sometimes it reaches those villages at 9 or 10 o'clock at night, and sometimes not earlier than the following morning. This irregularity causes serious inconvenience to the villagers, and is due to the circumstance that the mails are carried from Burdwan to Katwa, a distance of 32 miles, not by a mail coach, but by runners, who have a very bad road to deal with.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

25. A correspondent of the *Hitwadi* of the 8th September complains that The Economic and Art Department of the Calcutta Museum. vacancies in the Economic and Art Department of the Calcutta Museum are nowadays filled by incompetent outsiders, and the claims of the office employes are ignored. Lately the post of Curator fell vacant, and old and experienced office employes as well as B.A.'s and M.A.'s of the Calcutta University were among the applicants. But their applications were ignored, and a Military officer was appointed to the post. The authorities say that the post required special knowledge, and not University education. Men of 20 or 22 years' service in the department do not possess special knowledge and a Military officer possesses it!

But this is not the only instance of jobbery in this department. A Eurasian employe of the office resigned because there was no chance of promotion for him. This gentleman drew Rs. 50 a month as his pay. His assistant draws Rs. 20. The assistant applied for the post, and there were other competent office assistants and graduates of the Calcutta University among the applicants. But the post was given to a soldier. He, however, failed to discharge his duties and resigned.

Here is another instance of jobbery. An office employe had a fall from a railway train and applied for leave. He was entitled to privilege leave, but still his application was not granted, and he was called upon to produce a medical certificate. He produced such a certificate and was granted one month's leave. But he could not recover in one month and applied for further leave. This application was refused and his services were dispensed with on the ground that "his service in all respects had not been satisfactory." This officer, however, has been praised in annual and half-yearly reports. Who will solve this mystery? It is hoped that Dr. Watt will make enquiries into these complaints and do justice.

BANGAVASI,  
Sept. 9th, 1899.

26. The *Bangavasi* of the 9th September has the following:—

Lord Curzon's rule. Lord Curzon is really ruling the country without making any distinction of creed or colour. The Indian people are satisfied with his rule. Some European soldiers who committed an assault upon a Burmese woman were tried and acquitted. There was a lamentation in Burma, and this lamentation went deep into Lord Curzon's heart. The European soldiers are being retried by his order. In the North-Western Provinces two Europeans killed two natives on two different occasions. Both the accused were acquitted. But the offenders were again prosecuted with Sir Antony MacDonnell's permission. They were, it is true,



acquitted by the High Court, but their re-trial showed how the Government was anxious to see justice done to the people. Love, a European soldier of Madras, was prosecuted for killing a native. He was acquitted by the High Court, but has been sentenced to a few days' imprisonment by a Court-martial. Where the Chief is strict and impartial subordinate officers are sure to follow his lead. It is the head of the Government who moulds the conduct of his subordinates. Only the other day, the Subdivisional Officer of Barh unjustly imprisoned two innocent gentlemen and sentenced a third to whipping. The Sessions Judge of Patna as well as the Judges of the High Court have characterised the Subdivisional Officer's conduct as irregular, and the High Court has sent up the papers of the case to Government. This has satisfied all—Hindus as well as Musalmans. All appreciate this impartial administration of justice. And Lord Curzon, the source of justice and good government, is coming to Calcutta. Will not Bengal overflow with rejoicing?

27. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 10th September expresses gratitude to Lord Curzon for his soldier circular. It has, no doubt, been issued with the laudable object of putting a check on oppression of inoffensive native subjects by European soldiers. But it is a matter of regret that the rules framed by the Government are often not properly enforced. This appears to be one of the reasons why oppression by soldiers is increasing. Government is requested to see that the new circular is strictly enforced.

CHINSURA  
VARTAVAHA,  
Sept. 10th, 1899.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

28. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* of the 11th September, writing from the Mayna *Rajbati* in the Midnapore district, draws attention to the distress which is prevailing in Mayna in consequence of a heavy flood. The whole of Mayna, except a few dwelling-houses, is under water. All prospect of the paddy crop has vanished, and there is extreme scarcity of fooder also. The prices of paddy and rice have considerably risen and rates of interest have also gone up. Food articles have become both dear and scarce. The Collector should consider the advisability of taking in hand the construction of the projected Mayna-Tamluk road as a relief work. The District Board's money cannot be better expended.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Sept. 11th, 1899.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

29. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th September supports the "Bangiya Sahitya Parishad's" memorial to the Government for a literary pension to Babu Hem Chandra Banerji, the Bengali poet. Hem Babu long served the Government as a Government pleader, and it is hoped that the Government will grant him a pension just as it has granted a pension to Kisor Babu.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 8th, 1899.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 16th September, 1899.



